

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
COMUSJ YOKOTA JA
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:MARR, JA, RP

SUBJECT: JAPANESE INTEREST IN PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 17879(NOTAL)

1. UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING PAPER ON BASE TALKS FOLLOWS:
2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE US HAS LONG OPERATED MAJOR NAVAL AND AIR FORCES BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, PRINCIPALLY SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE AND CLARK AIR BASE, IN A FRINEDLY AND COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT. WE COULD LEGALLY OPERATE UNDER THE 1947 MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AT LEAST UNTIL 1991, BUT, IN RESPONSE
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TO PERIODIC PHILIPPINE REQUESTS FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY AGREED TO NEGOTIATE OR OTHERWISE WORK OUT APPROPRIATE CHANGES.

3. THE UNITED STATES HAS STRONG AND UNIQUE HISTORICAL TIES WITH THE PHILLIPINES, AS WELL AS AN IMPORTANT MILITARY INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION. OUR

SECURITY RELATIONSHIP IS DEFINED IN THREE MAJOR AGREEMENTS: THE 1947 MILITARY BASE AGREEMENT, THE 1951 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND A MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, REVISED IN 1953.

4. OUR SECURITY TIES WITH THE PHILIPPINES AND OUR MILITARY FACILITIES THERE SERVE IMPORTANT U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS TODAY, JUST AS THEY DID IN THE PAST. THEY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY IN EAST ASIA, TO OUR WORLDWIDE LOGISTIC, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING NETWORK AND TO OUR ABILITY TO REACT TO VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES AS WELL AS TO OUR ABILITY TO KEEP VITAL SEA LANES OPEN IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILITIES. OUR BASES ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ABILITY TO MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BILATERAL MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED IN 1951.

5. THE PHILIPPINES VIEWS OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THAT COUNTRY AND AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO A MUTUAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT GRANTS US THE USE OF A NUMBER OF MILITARY FACILITIES, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH ARE SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE AND CLARK AIR BASE. MOREOVER, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE, WITH OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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HELP, ITS ABILITY TO MEET ITS OWN DEFENSE NEEDS. GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES HAS REMAINED FAIRLY STABLE AVERAGING LESS THAN \$20 MILLION PER YEAR OVER THE LAST DECADE.

6. IN DECEMBER, 1975, PRESIDENT FORD VISITED MANILA AND HE AND PRESIDENT MARCOS AGREED TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATION OF A NEW MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD RESPECT PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE BASES WITHOUT HAMPERING THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. FORCES. THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN APRIL, 1976, AND WENT INTO SUSPENSE IN DECEMBER, 1976, FOLLOWING PHILIPPINE REJECTION OF A U.S. OFFER OF A COMPENSATION PACKAGE TOTALING ONE BILLION DOLLARS OVER FIVE YEARS, EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

7. THE HOLBROOKE CONVERSATIONS WITH MARCOS ON SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23 WERE FOLLOWED BY GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS BY THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK WITH MRS. MARCOS, IN HER CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE UNGA.

8. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM ARRIVED IN MANILA IN EARLY NOVEMBER AND HAS CONTINUED TALKS WITH MARCOS.

9. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM IS ASSISTED BY A GROUP OF ADVISORS, AMONG WHOM ARE REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM MC CLENDON, U.S. MILITARY ADVISOR, MINISTER LEE T. STULL OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS KILCLINE, COMMANDER OF THE U.S. NAVAL BASE IN SUBIC BAY, AND MAJOR GENERAL FREDDIE POSTON, COMMANDER OF THE U.S. 13TH AIR FORCE, CLARK AIR FORCE BASE. ASSISTING PRESIDENT MARCOS ON THE PHILIPPINE SIDE, ARE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE JUAN PONCE ENRILE, AMBASSADOR EDUARDO Z. ROMUALDEZ, SECRETARY OF JUSTICE VICENTE ABAD SANTOS, ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOSE D. INGLES, SOLICITOR GENERAL ESTELITO MENDOZA, UNCLASSIFIED

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FORMER VICE PRESIDENT EMMANUEL PELAEZ AND GENERAL ROMEO ESPINO.

10. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM HAS REITERATED THE DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

11. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN PRINCIPLE THAT THE PHILIPPINE BASES WOULD BE UNDER PHILIPPINE COMMANDERS AND THAT AREAS OF U.S. FACILITIES WOULD BE CLEARLY DEFINED. THE RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS AND US FACILITIES COMMANDERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED. GUIDELINES FOR PROCEDURES IN THE CONTINUING RP-U.S. DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE BASES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON.

12. ISSUES WHICH REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED ARE LARGELY RELATED TO THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE U.S. FORCES AND TO THE DAILY OPERATION OF THE BASES, THE ISSUE AS WELL AS THE SIZE AND NATURE OF ANY COMPENSATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT ALSO REMAINS TO BE DISCUSSED. END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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